

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 00456 180211Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 NIC-01 OMB-01 OPR-02 DRC-01 /107 W

----- 008148

P 180103Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9634

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ UNN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA UNN

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO UNN

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS UNN

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN UNN

AMCONSUL MERIDA UNN

AMCONSUL MONTERREY UNN

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO UNN

AMCONSUL TIJUANA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 0456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJECT: LARGE-SCALE VIOLENCE IN CULIACAN, SINALOA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY: GROUP OF SOME 300 YOUTHS AND STUDENTS ENGAGED IN WIDESPREAD ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN CULIACAN, SINALOA, ON JAN. 16. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE AT LEAST FOUR PERSONS KILLED, FIVE WOUNDED, ANYWHERE FROM 5 TO 14 ARRESTED. GOVERNOR HAS ATTRIBUTED VIOLENCE TO 23RD OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE. TWO COMPANIES OF PARATROOPS DUE TO BE SENT IN TODAY. END SUMMARY.

2. MEXICO CITY MEDIA JAN. 17 CARRY EXTENSIVE REPORTAGE ON VIOLENCE THAT BROKE OUT IN CULIACAN, CAPITAL OF SINALOA STATE AT APPROXIMATELY 0500 HOURS ON JAN. 16. REPORTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 00456 180211Z

GENERALLY AGREE THAT SOME 300 YOUTHS AND STUDENTS

ASSEMBLED, THEN SPLIT INTO FIVE GROUPS IN ORDER TO SEIZE AND BURN SEVERAL BUSES, TEMPORARILY "KIDNAP" A FARMER THEY ENCOUNTERED, ROB WEAPONS AND CASH FROM BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS AND FROM SECURITY INSTALLATION OF SECRETARIAT OF WATER RESOURCES, THROW MOLOTOV COCKTAILS AT STATE CONGRESS BUILDING, AND ORGANIZE MEETINGS OF CAMPESINOS IN OUTLYING RURAL AREAS.

3. VIOLENCE INCLUDED SEVERAL RUNNING GUN-BATTLES WITH MUNICIPAL AND STATE JUDICIAL POLICE BEFORE SITUATION FINALLY BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AT MID-AFTERNOON. THOSE KILLED REPORTEDLY INCLUDE TWO STUDENT-PARTICIPANTS, AN AGRICULTURAL WORKER, AND STORE WATCHMAN, WITH AT LEAST ONE MUNICIPAL POLICEMAN AMONG THE WOUNDED. THOSE ARRESTED INCLUDE SEVERAL STUDENTS (EXCELSIOR PUTS TOTAL ARREST FIGURE AT 14).

4. NINTH MILITARY ZONE COMMANDER GEN. ROSENDO FLORES CITAL ANNOUNCED NIGHT OF JAN. 16 THAT SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE HAD ORDERED TWO COMPANIES OF PARATROOPS INTO CITY ON JAN. 17 TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER AND PREVENT FURTHER OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE. TROOP MOVEMENT ORDERED DESPITE ASSURANCE BY GOV. ALFREDO VALDES MONTOYA IN INTERVIEW WITH EXCELSIOR THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR TROOPS TO PATROL CITY. GOVERNOR WENT ON TO CONDEMN "COWARDLY ACTS CARRIED OUT BY ROBBERS DISGUISED AS AGITATORS AND PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARIES." HE ALSO STATED, HOWEVER, THAT ONE OF PERSONS DETAINED CLAIMED TO BE MEMBER OF 23RD OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE AND HAD TOLD POLICE THAT ACTS COMMITTED IN CULIACAN AND NEARBY AGRICULTURAL AREAS WERE PART OF NATIONAL PLAN TO DISRUPT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. RECTOR OF AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SINALOA (UAS) CONCURRED WITH GOVERNOR, BLAMING LEAGUE AND GROUP OF "RADICAL ANARCHISTS" KNOWN AS "LOS ENFERMOS" AND STATING THAT MANY PARTICIPANTS WERE NON-STUDENTS AND FROM OUT OF STATE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

5. COMMENT: WE WOULD WANT FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INVOLVEMENT BY 23RD OF SEPT. COMMUNIST LEAGUE BEFORE CREDITING GOVERNOR'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 00456 180211Z

ACCOUNT OF ORIGIN OF THIS VIOLENCE, BUT -- ON BASIS OF RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTING -- WE DO NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT YESTERDAY'S ACTS WERE INITIATED BY GUERRILLAS AND REPRESENT SOME SORT OF ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE POPULAR RISING. DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION, USE OF WEAPONS, AND APPARENT ATTEMPTS TO PROSELYTIZE CAMPESINOS WOULD ALL ARGUE IN FAVOR OF SUCH A THEORY. AT SAME TIME, AT LEAST ONE MEXICO CITY DAILY (HERALDO) CITES RECENT INCREASE IN CULIACAN BUS FARES FROM

50 TO 80 CENTAVOS AS POSSIBLE PRETEXT FOR THE VIOLENCE,
AND SOME OF TACTICS EMPLOYED YESTERDAY -- SUCH AS
BURNING OF BUSES -- ARE TRADITIONAL WITH STUDENTS. UAS
HAS HAD LONG HISTORY OF VIOLENT STUDENT UNREST (SEE, FOR
EXAMPLE, MEXICO A-189 OF APRIL 11, 1972), AND UAS STUDENTS
HAVE AT TIMES ATTEMPTED TO MAKE COMMON CAUSE WITH
CAMPESINOS. WILL REPORT FURTHER AS MORE DETAILS BECOME
AVAILABLE.

MCBRIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MEXICO00456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740132/aaaabdxz.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LARGE-SCALE VIOLENCE IN CULIACAN, SINALOA BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PINS, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005